

iron would have been needed, with a view to its arrest, were it not that my orders in regard to the light breakfast were disregarded, and a regal repast of 'greens' substituted for the frugal one of gruel which I had directed. The consequence was that, when the effect of the chloroform had partially subsided, violent vomiting came on and continued, very seriously to the operator's discomfort in many ways, and, of course, increasing the danger of continued oozing from the wound. A considerable mass of cotton 'wool,' saturated in a solution of perchloride of iron, was introduced into the vagina, which was afterwards perfectly 'plugged' with dry cotton; a band placed around the abdomen, to which a perineal bandage was attached, and the whole securely fastened so as to resist the violent downward abdominal pressure accompanying the vomiting. The next morning, this dressing was removed; there had been no hemorrhage, nor was there subsequently, nor was any dressing used except a piece of patent lint smeared with cerate, which was each day thrust up the vagina, so as to come into contact with the wounded surface; even this was discontinued in about ten days, long before which time the patient had been sitting up, and feeling quite well.

"On the 20th day of June (twenty-one days after the operation), I went to Fortress Monroe and left my patient doing very well, 'up and about' every day; the discharge from the vagina was very slight, and the portion of the wound remaining uncicatized was not larger than a quarter of a dollar.

"Three months after this time, I was summoned to Mrs. M. and found her suffering extremely. An examination revealed an entire occlusion of the uterine canal, and the cause of the suffering to be a retention of the menstrual fluid; an opening with a narrow bistoury was easily made, and gave issue to the immediate cause of trouble. I have twice since had occasion to repeat this operation for the same reason; the last time was about three months since, when I took occasion not only to open the canal, but also to resect a portion of its walls at the point where it was contracted. Yesterday, I examined the patient and found a sufficient opening to exist, and its appearance leads me to hope that it will not again become occluded. At the same time, I introduced a probe to the fundus, and found the length of the uterine cavity to be just $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. I twice attempted to prevent the closure of the uterine cavity by the introduction of smooth tubes of silver and gutta percha, but in both instances such a degree of pain and sympathetic disturbance rapidly supervened that further similar attempts were not made.

"In concluding this very imperfect narrative, I would state that the result of the operation has been all that could be desired. When it was first suggested to the patient, I was not aware of the labors of Huguier, whose elaborate and exhaustive work, with its numerous illustrations, I have only met with during the last year.

"I diagnosticated the case to be one of pure hypertrophy of the os and cervix, and nothing more, notwithstanding its great size, and had long before concluded, from a careful perusal of Lisfranc's cases, that any simple hypertrophy of the os and cervix might be safely removed for good cause. I am aware that I might extend this report almost indefinitely, with the usual historical preface and peroration; such additions might not, to a certain extent, be destitute of a good deal of interest. Extreme occupation, arising from my approaching departure for a very distant post, precludes, however, anything of the sort at present. I would, however, indicate, to those desirous of studying the subject of these operations further, that the great work is that of Huguier, of some three or four hundred pages quarto, and very numerous large plates."

The Yellow Colour of the Skin in Yellow Fever due to the Presence of Hæmatidine.—Dr. S. FLEET SPEIR has published in the *Am. Med. Times* (Nov. 7, 1863) a case of yellow fever, with the post-mortem and microscopical examination, which lead to some interesting conclusions.

The following is given as the result of the *microscopical examination*: "The contents of the stomach and intestines were acid, and contained altered blood-corpuscles, and abundant granules of hæmatidine. *Liver*.—Its cells were large, and some of them fatty, but the greater portion presented the appearance of advanced waxy degeneration; there was abundance of hæmatidine and a few

blood-crystals. *Heart*.—Granules of hæmatoidine, muscular fibres undergoing molecular degeneration. *Kidneys*—fatty; granules of hæmatoidine. *Spleen*—softened; abundant granules of hæmatoidine. *Pancreas* and *supra-renal* capsules contained hæmatoidine. The skin and conjunctiva contained abundant granules of hæmatoidine, and seemed to derive their yellow colour from the presence of this substance. *Blood*.—Some of the corpuscles were found altered and broken down."

The examination of a case reported a few weeks before in the same journal, led Dr. S. "to believe that the presence of hæmatoidine in the skin and tissues might give rise to a yellow coloration of the same, similar to that supposed to be produced by the colouring matter of the bile, in cases of yellow fever, jaundice, etc. The examination of this second case seems to verify such a suggestion.

"The pathology of the two cases was very similar. In each the principal lesion was an altered condition of the blood, and its extravasation in large quantities into the alimentary canal, and among all the tissues and organs of the body. In the first case the extravasated blood acquired a very dark colour, and produced a purplish colouration of the tissues. In the second case the extravasated blood had undergone changes of a different nature, and assumed a lighter colour, producing a yellow colouration of the tissues, and particularly of the skin and conjunctiva.

"These examinations were carefully made, and are believed to be accurate. The following conclusions are therefore deduced from them. 1st. This was a genuine case of yellow fever; 2d. Its principal lesion was an altered condition of the blood, and its extravasation among the tissues and organs of the body; 3d. The colouration of the skin and tissues was produced by the extravasation and decomposition of the blood, its hæmatine changing into hæmatoidine, and producing a yellow colouration; 4th. In cases of 'blood disease,' characterized by the extravasation of blood among the tissues, the latter may assume a variety of colours, depending upon changes of colour during the decomposition of the hæmatine and the presence of hæmatoidine.

"The well-known changes of colour which take place around ecchymotic spots and old extravasations, also the colour of the corpora lutea, the yellow softening of the brain, and the varieties of colour in pigments, seem to confirm these statements, all of them being due to the presence of hæmatoidine."

Properties and Composition of the Ridgewood Disinfecting Powder.—The Section of Public Health and Legal Medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine, report through their chairman, Dr. GRISCOM, very favourably respecting the disinfecting properties of the Ridgewood Powder.

The composition of the powder is given as follows: Carbolic acid, five to eight per cent.; sesquichlor. ferri, two to five per cent.; charcoal or pulverized pumice, five per cent.; lime, from magnesian limestone, five per cent.; Fuller's earth, seventy to eighty per cent.; and a trace of the sulphates of potash and soda.

After reporting some tests to which the powder was subjected by the committee, and adducing corroborating evidence derived from reports of several military hospitals at Washington, the committee say: From the facts above reported, and an examination of these components, it is manifest that this powder is a valuable addition to the list of deodorizers, and disinfectants, and that while others, as the nitrate of lead, chloride of zinc, and permanganate of potass, are equally efficacious, and perhaps better adapted to some necessities, especially about the persons of the sick in hospital wards, etc., the greater cheapness of the Ridgewood powder must commend it in all other localities, and for general use.—*Am. Med. Times*, Oct. 10, 1863.